

May 9, 1975

SENATOR BEREUTER: Could you repeat the page number.

SENATOR MILLS: 1008.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Go ahead.

SENATOR MILLS: Senator Bereuter, that would make LB 577 on page 10 starting with line 20, say that "withdrawal to the existing and future ground water users with any area in such ratio as it shall determine". Now that says nothing about stopping drilling. In fact I think it says that the contrary, that it would allow drilling to be continued. Would this meet with your approval?

SENATOR BEREUTER: As I understand it Senator Mills this is an allocation system. Is that correct?

SENATOR MILLS: It's basically an allocation.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Yes, I'm in favor of the provisions that are in the bill, or these as well that would try to find the solution in allocation or well spacing.

SENATOR MILLS: Thank you. Senator Bereuter, I offered an amendment. I believe it was one day this week when we talked about 577. As Senator Lewis has said it's too bad our Chairman of the Public Works Committee is not here. He would not accept this amendment. The delegation of people who have as much faith in him as I do voted with him not to accept this amendment. However, I look at the amendment in a different way. I'm looking at Senator Lewis' amendment in a different way. I don't want to lose the bill. I think it's most important that this piece of legislation be passed to be fair to the people of the State of Nebraska, as I know that you're trying to do. If you had said that you would not accept this amendment then I would have objected to discussing it further. I want one of the two to come out of it. I appreciate what you're trying to do. As Senator Lewis has said, we are trying to have, or are going to have a meeting of those people. Senator Rasmussen had some questions concerning some areas in LB 577. We're going to try to work those out. I would hope that we could work this area out. I really hate to see this bill stalled along the way.

PRESIDENT: I have other lights Senator. Well I know it. I've got a lot of lights. Senator Maresh is up next.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President, members, I too favor the allocation plan. I can't see people wasting water. Tests have shown that yields go down when you over-irrigate. I can't see these people with old wells to over-irrigate and not allow new wells to be drilled. I favor doing something about the allocation provision. So I would support bringing the bill back to probably add the Mills amendment onto this bill.